CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUIDED BUSWAY

Cambridgeshire County Council

Guided Busway Update

March 2009

Welcome to the March 2009 edition of the guided busway newsletter from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Chesterton railway station

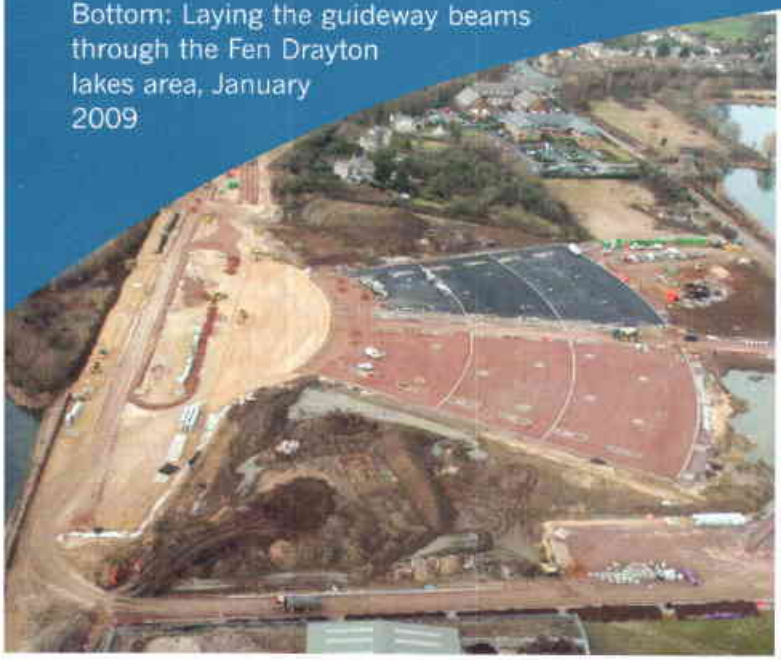
The Government at a regional level has recently approved plans to develop Chesterton sidings into a railway station for the north of Cambridge. This is an important first step to securing funding, which could see work start in 2012 and the new station open by 2015.

Should the Council receive this money, a short section of guideway would be built to connect the new station to the St Ives to Cambridge busway – giving a direct connection to the rail network.

The photo to the left shows the location of the railway station at Chesterton and the link to the Guided Busway, should funding be granted.

Proposed Chesterton railway station and link into Guided Busway.

Below: St Ives Park & Ride site, January 2009
Bottom: Laying the guideway beams through the Fen Drayton lakes area, January 2009



Progress on works

St Ives to Longstanton

All the crossings over drains and rivers in this area are now complete. Some earthworks and laying of foundations are still ongoing towards St Ives. The laying of the guideway that follows this work is progressing well and it is expected that the final beams will be laid in St Ives in May 2009.

Although the busway runs through floodplains in this area, the guideway is being constructed to withstand flooding and even during very high water levels in February this year buses would have been able to continue running.

Longstanton to Cambridge

Bus stops are now being built along this section of guided busway. Our contractor is working at several stops at the same time. Oakington will be the first village with a completed stop.

All the stops from St Ives to Cambridge will be completed by the time the busway opens in late summer and will allow level boarding for passengers.

Orchard Park Link

Work has now also started on the Orchard Park Link of the busway. This will be a short stretch of busway between Cambridge Regional College and Histon Road. The link will run between the new Orchard Park development (previously known as Arbury Park) and King's Hedges Road in the north of Cambridge.

There will be two bus stops along the busway serving this community and Cambridge Regional College. A cycleway will also be built next to this stretch of busway. The link will be completed with the rest of the busway for late summer and will give people a direct bus service in to Cambridge and a traffic free public transport alternative to St Ives that will take just 20 minutes.

Cambridge Railway Station to Trumpington and Addenbrooke's

Further preparation works for the busway construction will start in this section soon. A new bridge over Hobson's Brook will be built and the foundations for the busway laid. The timetable for building the guideway in this section will be established once the guideway between St Ives and Cambridge is complete.

Update on road works

Hills Road

Our contractor is just about to start on the third and final phase of building a new underpass underneath Hills Road bridge.

This phase will also require some restriction to one lane for traffic during off-peak hours (9.30am to 4pm and after 6pm). One footpath will also be closed during the off-peak hours.

The restrictions are necessary to make sure deep piling on the bridge can take place safely.

Drilling 19 metres down into the embankment of the bridge will create the reinforced walls of the underpass. The equipment that is needed for this work is very large and safety is of paramount importance.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank people for their patience.

Road works on Hills Road bridge

Junction works on Milton Road

Milton Road

Our contractor will soon start building the final section of this new junction. This involves work in the middle section of the road to take up the remaining old railway line and rebuilding the road. The work is scheduled to be finished in April.

A1096, St Ives Bypass

Road works to build a new junction on the A1096, St Ives Bypass, started in January. The new junction will enable buses, cyclists and pedestrians to cross the road safely.

Some parts of the road have now been re-built and the access to Station Road is being reopened. Our contractor still needs to install traffic signals and streetlights, resurface the remaining parts of the road and put the final road markings onto the new junction.

The road is currently restricted to one lane during off-peak hours (from 9.30am to 4pm) and we expect these works to be completed in May.

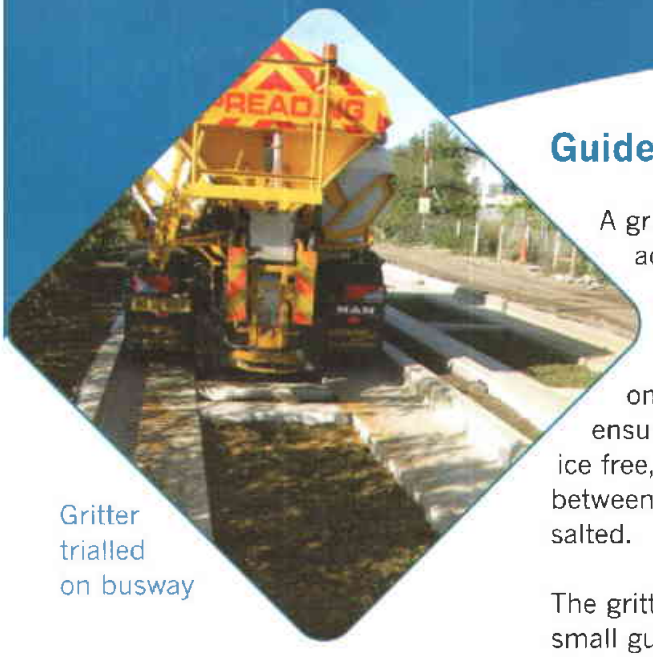
B1050, Longstanton

On the B1050 in Longstanton we have begun to create the entrance to the new Park & Ride site. The works are scheduled to be finished in late summer.

The road needs to be straightened and widened to build the new junction into the Park and Ride.

Works will be carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible and two-way traffic will be maintained whenever possible but for some phases of the work it will be necessary to install temporary traffic lights restricting traffic to single lane. This is essential for the works to be undertaken safely and as quickly as possible.

The new Park & Ride site will initially have 350 spaces with room to expand to 700. The new junction will provide easy access to the Park & Ride and help taking cars of the B1050.



Gritter trialled on busway

Guided gritter

A gritter which will be especially adapted to keep the busway free of snow and ice, is being ordered soon. The salt will only be spread onto the concrete tracks to ensure the busway track is kept ice free, but the grass strip in between the tracks will not be salted.

The gritter will be fitted with two small guide wheels, attached in front of its regular wheels. These guide wheels then connect with the busway track so it can drive on the guideway just like a guided bus.

A similar guided gritter is used on the guided busway in Essen in Germany.

The gritter will be built over the summer and arrive on site in autumn 2009, ready for the next winter season.

Construction timeline

As with any large construction project this programme is subject to change. We will update the programme in each edition of this newsletter.

Activity	Start	Finish
Longstanton to Cambridge further construction	July 07	Summer 09
Longstanton to St Ives construction	Aug 08	Summer 09
Work on Hills Road bridge	May 08	Summer 09
Construction of St Ives Park & Ride	July 08	Spring 09
Construction of Longstanton Park & Ride	Winter 08/09	Summer 09
Cambridgeshire Guided Busway opening (St Ives to Cambridge)		Summer 09

How can I find out more?

If you want to know more about the Guided Busway project or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact the Guided Busway team on 01223 716972, e-mail us on guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or write to us at

Cambridgeshire County Council
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Castle Hill
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The next update about the project will be available in May 2009.

There are also lots of details about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/guidedbusway